

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated on December 3, 2007. Claims 1, 26, 37-38, 57 are amended into form indicated to be allowable. Claims 27 and 36 are cancelled. No claims are added. As a result, claims 1-10, 14-15, 17-21, 23, 26, 28, 30, 34-35, 37-42, 44-49, 51-55 and 57-68 are now pending in this patent application, of which claims 44-49 and 51-55 have been allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 44-49 and 51-55 have been allowed.

Claims 14, 15, 34, 37-42, 59, 60, 63 and 64 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 37-38, together with the subject matter of intervening claims 27 and 36. Therefore, claim 1 and all of its dependent claims are now in allowable form.

Similarly, Applicant has amended claim 57 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 63-64. Therefore, claim 57 and all of its dependent claims are now in allowable form.

Claim 65 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claim 57 has overcome the antecedent basis rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph of claim 65. Accordingly, claim 65 is now in allowable form.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Objections

Claim 26 was objected to for informalities, since it depended from a cancelled claim. Claim 26 has been amended to depend from claim 1, which, for the reasons discussed above, is in allowable form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claim 26 .

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 65 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claim 57 has overcome the antecedent basis rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph of claim 65. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 65 is now in allowable form, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection of claim 65.

§102/§103 Rejections of the Claims

1. Claims 1-10, 17-21, 23 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kung (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,430). Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been overcome and that these claims are now in a form indicated to be allowable by the Examiner, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection of these claims.
2. Claims 1-3, 17, 23, 26-28, 30, 35-36, 57-58, 61-62, 64 and 66-68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Mueller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,214). Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been overcome and that these claims are now in a form indicated to be allowable by the Examiner, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection of these claims.

Reservation of Rights

In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicant may not have equally addressed every assertion made in the Office Action, however, this does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicant reserves all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present

claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicant timely objects to such reliance on Official Notice, and reserves all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicant reserves all rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request rejoinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

CONCLUSION

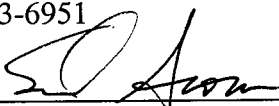
Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6951 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

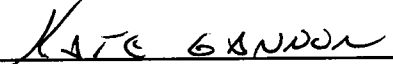
Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 3 day of June 2008.



Name



Signature